



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

September 18, 2001

**S. 1424**

**An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of ‘S’ visa nonimmigrants**

*As cleared by the Congress on September 14, 2001*

Through September 13, 2001, the Department of Justice was authorized to provide nonimmigrant visas known as “S” visas to certain individuals who assisted law enforcement agencies in prosecuting members of criminal or terrorist organizations. S. 1424 would renew this authority permanently. Costs to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for administering these visas would be funded from fees collected by the agency. CBO estimates, however, that any additional spending by the INS would be negligible because the number of visas issued under S. 1424 would be limited to 250 for each fiscal year.

Although individuals with nonimmigrant visas are ineligible for most federal entitlement programs, these individuals could receive emergency Medicaid services. Enactment of the legislation could cause an insignificant increase in direct spending for these services.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.